QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE OFFICE OF SITE CLOSURE

Closure Chronicles

V. 1, MAY 2000

Table of Contents

Jim Fiore Meets with "Closure Chronicles"

James J. Fiore, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Site Closure, was interviewed for the inaugural issue of "Closure Chronicles." We appreciate the time Mr. Fiore spent talking with us.

For those unfamiliar with the Office of Site Closure, Mr. Fiore is responsible for the entire missions of waste management, environmental restoration, and nuclear materials stabilization at the following Operations Offices: Albuquerque, Chicago, Nevada, Oak Ridge, Oakland, Ohio, and Rocky Flats. These responsibilities encompass work at 109 of EM's 113 sites including: storage, treatment, and disposal of legacy waste; management of nuclear materials processing and production facilities; remediation of large tracts of land with soil and/or groundwater contamination; and decontamination and decommissioning of numerous surplus facilities.

Closure Chronicles: *The Vision for the Office of Site Closure is published elsewhere in this edition of "Closure Chronicles." Tell us what was behind your thinking in establishing this vision.*

Deputy Assistant Secretary James Fiore: I see the creation of our new program as a real opportunity to refocus on the core mission of achieving site closure, and I want everything we do to promote site closure. As we conduct our activities, we need to strive for excellence in achieving the first two points of my vision: The Site Closure Program will set the standard for safe, cost-effective closure of nuclear facilities; and the Site Closure Program will be the model for transitioning Government activities from operations to closure. As we achieve these points, the rest of the vision will follow.

CC: *You were previously the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Restoration; have your challenges changed since you became the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Site Closure?*

Fiore: During the early years of EM, budgets were escalating and many sites were in the characterization and remedy evaluation stage. Most sites are now in the active cleanup phase. Digging dirt or taking down contaminated buildings costs more than characterization and analysis. Some of our larger projects (such as decontamination and decommissioning of the processing facilities at Rocky Flats or building the disposal cells at Weldon Spring and Fernald) require substantial budgets. Yet, we know our budget is likely to remain flat, so we must become more efficient. While accomplishing some of our activities earlier will reduce out year mortgages and, thereby, free up funds, in the near term there is no doubt that working within our existing budget will be a significant challenge to the Office.

I feel very good about the strong management team we have assembled in the Office of Site Closure. They have proven records of success in project management. I am also very excited about the terrific group of engineers, scientists, and other professionals who will help me lead this complex and geographically dispersed program. With their help, I know we can meet the challenges to our new organization.

CC: *With so many requirements and liabilities associated with contractor cleanup performance, why should any qualified, serious contractor want to do business with DOE?*

Fiore: We believe our contracting strategies will attract qualified bidders because the rewards for excellent performance will be great. We do not want "business as usual" performance. Safe, cost-effective innovative performance is our expectation.

The EM program is very large and will continue for a number of years. Demonstrating capabilities such as conducting work safely while saving time or money today will likely result in numerous opportunities to demonstrate those same capabilities at other sites on other projects in the future. [See article on Rocky Flats contract elsewhere in this issue for more information on Office of Site Closure's innovations in contracting.]

CC: *If you received significantly more money than you requested in your budget, could site cleanup be accomplished that much faster?*

Fiore: Yes, but it would be very unrealistic to expect added funding given the constraints on the overall Federal budget. The challenge we face is to meet our environmental commitments within existing funding levels. We just need to achieve more with less.

CC: *Is anyone working to streamline all the regulatory and administrative requirements imposed on site cleanup work?*

Fiore: As articulated in our vision, we aim to become the model of transitioning Government activities from operations to closure. And while we recognize that satisfying the milestones in regulatory compliance agreements is an important aspect of achieving cleanup, we plan to work with our regulators to shift from a single focus on compliance to the end-point achievement of site closure in a compliant manner. In other words, we want to focus on closing sites and achieving the desired end-state in substantive compliance with the regulations and the desires of our other stakeholders.

My objective is to also reduce non-safety-related policies and procedures which might make sense to a site with an ongoing mission but may have little value for sites undergoing closure. My Office and I will be working with the Office of Management and Budget and with Congress to develop proposals for streamlining the budget process to focus more on site closure. Now that meaningful baselines are in hand, we hope to spend more effort on achieving site closure and less on obtaining a budget.

VISION

- Set the standard for safe, cost-effective closure of nuclear facilities.
- Be the model for transitioning Government activities from operations to closure.
- Achieve end-states that are safe now and enable protective, effective stewardship for the future.
- Deploy new technologies to help the drive toward closure.
- Focus on closing sites under our responsibility by 2006.

CC: *How are decisions made on the degree to which contaminated sites will be cleaned?*

Fiore: We have been working with our stakeholders, including regulators, to identify future land uses for our sites. This is a critical factor in achieving our vision. As the end-state decisions are made, we can move forward and determine how clean a site will need to be to support that future land use. As we proceed, we will continue to work with our stakeholders to identify which specific locations will need to be cleaned for unrestricted use and where contamination will be isolated in place. For those sites with contamination remaining after we have completed our mission, DOE will provide for long term stewardship, ensuring the safety of the surrounding population and environment for as long as the contamination may pose a hazard.

CC: *Let's say you've identified the future land uses of your sites with your stakeholders, are there then any technology gaps that would prevent you from getting to the desired cleanup end state?*

Fiore: These future land use decisions are quite complex. We must consider whether technologies are available and cost effective to address cleanup issues, the potential health risks to workers and surrounding populations, and the possibilities of collateral ecological damage. The continued development and deployment of innovative technologies will help meet national needs for regulatory compliance, lower life-cycle costs, and reduce risks to the workers, the environment and public health. We are working to more closely integrate with EM's Office of Science and Technology to demonstrate and deploy new and improved technologies to meet these cleanup challenges. Our specific activities include continuing to apply new and improved technologies to our sites and sharing the results both across the DOE complex and with commercial industry.

CC: *Your office is located in Washington, D.C., and your cleanup sites are a thousand miles away. How do you really know how well the cleanup work is being performed by contractors?*

Fiore: While this might sound like a difficult undertaking, there are systems in place to help manage work spread out across the country. Site closures will be managed just as we manage our cleanup efforts - as projects. We use the same up-to-date project management tools that are used by large-scale construction projects, including planning and information management tools.

As part of the contractor performance evaluation process, the DOE here in Washington, D.C., and the DOE located at the field sites or Operations Offices conduct periodic management assessments and independent assessments and review monthly contractor progress reports to determine the overall effectiveness of contractor performance. In addition, my staff and I travel to the sites often and perform walk-throughs with an eye for both safety and project performance. We then share the information with the EM Assistant Secretary Dr. Carolyn Huntoon and others to ensure that safety lessons learned are well disseminated.

CC: *Let's take a look into the future. It's now 2006, what's next?*

Fiore: In 2006, we should be able to look back at many significant site closures. While our site vision is focused on closing our sites by 2006, we know that this is not the end of DOE's responsibilities. In some cases, our cleanup activities will be

completed by 2006 and there will be no further DOE responsibility at the site. In other cases, DOE will be responsible for ongoing stewardship after we close a site. In still other cases, DOE has other program missions that will continue after we have completed our closure activities. And there are a few sites where our closure projects will simply not be completed by 2006, and there will still be contamination that must be addressed. So, while the Office of Site Closure is looking forward to going out of business, reality forces us to recognize that there will still be site cleanup and closure work to be done after 2006.

CC: *What is the most important message you would like to convey to the readers of Closure Chronicles?*

Fiore: We are striving for a culture of closure. Our first question before doing anything should be: "How will this help close a site more safely or quickly?" Site closure is our primary focus, and achieving site closure is the objective of everything we do. ■

A "Site Closure Vision" brochure has been published and is available by contacting the Center for Environmental Management Information at 1-800-736-3282.
For additional information, please contact the Office of Site Closure at (202) 586-6331 or visit our homepage at www.em.doe.gov

Greetings to the Readers of the First Issue of the *Closure Chronicles* Newsletter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary

Welcome to the "Closure Chronicles" Newsletter! We will publish this Newsletter quarterly to help promote communications across the Site Closure Program as well as the entire Environmental Management Program. We also hope to reach our stakeholders who may want to be kept informed of our progress and help us through our challenges.

In this issue of the Newsletter, you will find the Office of Site Closure Vision Statement. To achieve this vision, all of us - everyone working in the program and our stakeholders - must focus on how we can achieve more with less. This means cleaning up our sites faster and with less risk to our workers while spending less money.

In achieving this Vision, we build upon the significant successes of the Office of Environmental Management over the past ten years - progress in remediating some of the most severely contaminated sites in the nation. In this issue of "Closure Chronicles," we will be looking at some recent successes: a pollution prevention award at Pantex and innovative technologies that are being used to remediate soil and groundwater more quickly and efficiently than we ever thought could be done. We will also describe the new contract at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site, where DOE and Kaiser-Hill have an agreed-to cost and an agreed-to schedule for site closure. This innovative contract provides Kaiser-Hill the opportunity to gain up to an additional $120 million for accelerating closure, or lose up to $190 million of its negotiated fee if closure is delayed.

"Closure Chronicles" will continue to highlight our achievements in the safe, cost-effective closure of DOE sites.

I thank you all for your dedication in working to achieve the Office of Site Closure Vision!

James J. Fiore

Public Use of Fernald

How should the public use the Fernald site once cleanup and restoration are complete? This question has been receiving a great deal of attention and scrutiny in the Fernald community.

In 1999, DOE and the Fernald stakeholders determined that the majority of the 1,050-acre site near Cincinnati, Ohio, would be devoted to natural resource restoration, with a 23-acre parcel set aside for potential development and 123 acres committed to the On-Site Disposal Facility. Now that general plans for land use have been resolved, the next step is to determine specifically how people can use the site.

Local citizens are working with Department of Energy and Fluor Fernald decision makers to determine whether most of the site should remain an undisturbed natural area after cleanup or have limited public use and access. Some of the uses being considered include an educational facility, a museum to preserve the history of the site and surrounding communities, and a final resting place for Native American remains.

"Fernald stakeholders are committed to finding reasonable and balanced solutions," said Terry Hagen, Fluor Fernald vice president of the new Site Closure Office. "They take the time to learn about an issue and ask good questions. I expect the discussion on public use of Fernald will result in a final decision that meets the needs of DOE and the surrounding communities."

Over the next six months, a series of public workshops will be held in the Fernald community to obtain input from local residents, educators, and community leaders on public use options. DOE will use this input to develop its plan, which will be available for public review later this year. Once the final decision has been made, DOE and the stakeholders can start planning public use amenities, such as trails and roadways, and incorporate the information into long-term stewardship plans. ■

For more information, contact Al Johnson, EM-31, at (301) 903-7226 or e-mail at Albert.Johnson@em.doe.gov

Site Closure Policy Team Assisting Sites in Meeting Closure Responsibilities

The focus of the Closure Policy Team is on the business-related closure requirements and issues that must be addressed at closure sites. At many of these sites, much of the project's attention is given to those technical issues that need resolution if a site is to close. However, there are also a number of business management activities which must be accomplished for successful closure. The Closure Policy Team provides a small cadre of experienced business management specialists to assist the sites and Headquarters Site Leads with their business closure responsibilities as well as address any cross-cutting, systemic issues that must be resolved. Examples of major initiatives include the following:

Business Close-Out Self Assessment Process

There are a number of business activities that need attention lest unanticipated issues associated with them prove to be closure roadblocks as we near completion of the cleanup process.

The Closure Policy Team met with each of the Office Directors in December and January to determine and define the business activities that should be examined. The Closure Policy Team and site lead staff, as well as staff from the Office of Long-Term Stewardship, met in February and reviewed and refined a draft package of assessment guidance which was subsequenly sent to the field offices on March 15.

The effort was not intended to be paper intensive, nor a cross-comparison score card on how far along sites were in the business closure process. The first drafts of completed assessments are due at the end of June. The assessments are intended to help the sites gauge the progress and adequacy of their business activities and help Headquarters identify systemic problems that require solutions.

Post-Closure Benefit Liabilities

As part of our efforts to determine all of the liabilities that EM has when a plant closes without a successor contractor, we are gathering financial information on post-closure benefit liabilities. These include pensions; medical, dental, life, and long-term disability insurance; severance pay; and enhanced benefits under section 3161 of the Defense Appropriations Act of 1993 (for DOE contractor employees at weapons production sites). As an initial request, we are asking for valuation reports from Rocky Flats, Fernald, and Mound on all of these benefits programs. Preliminary information from these sites indicates that the liabilities are in the hundreds of millions or possibly billions of dollars. After all of the valuation information is in, the next stage of the project will be to determine ways and means to reduce and pay off these liabilities with the least impact on the EM mission and budget.

Business Closure Activities

- contract incentives;
- sale-of-site/end-state planning;
- post-contract benefit liabilities;
- records disposition;
- lawsuits;
- contractor and Federal employee transition and labor relations;
- personal property disposal;
- reindustrialization/leasing;
- order exemptions;
- documenting effective closure experiences;
- community interface;
- memoranda of agreement; and
- long-term surveillance and maintenance.

Federal and Contractor Employee Transition

One of the serious problems in accelerating the cleanup and closure of our sites is retaining skilled and experienced Federal and contractor employees. The attrition rate for these employees is double and triple what is normal for employee turnover and we expect that the situation will get worse as the final closure date gets closer. For Federal employees, we are working with EM's Office of Resource Management and the Office of Management and Administration on a series of internal policies and legislative proposals.

Actions include:

- DOE is proposing legislation to provide retention incentives and enhanced severance packages for closure sites.
- DOE is developing guidelines for DOE-wide priority selection for employees who become surplus to closure sites.
- EM will develop an enhanced priority placement program.
- EM will develop a cadre of technical experts to fill skills gaps at closure sites when attrition or changing needs lead to challenges that cannot be met with the existing workforce.

We are also working with the Office of Worker and Community Transition to develop plans for contractor employees which will serve the same purpose. Our plans will include attempts to devise innovative approaches borrowing from successful programs in the public sector.

Site Closure Web Page

A Site Closure web page is also being developed. Initially the intent of the web page was to provide a tool that would address business activities that closure sites could use to move toward close-out. However, because of the audience that this web page will reach and the need to provide additional technical and management information to all Headquarters and Field Offices, the site was expanded to cover additional site closure subjects such as key management strategies; an electronic version of *Closure Chronicles* newsletter; and reports that address site closure issues.

The Site Closure web page will be accessible through the EM web site and should be available in May 2000. ■

For more information, contact Carl Guidice, EM-30, at (301) 903-1323 or e-mail Carl.Guidice@em.doe.gov

Kaiser-Hill and DOE Sign New Rocky Flats Closure Contract

On January 24, 2000, the U.S. Department of Energy and Kaiser-Hill Company, L.L.C. signed a contract to safely close the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site by December 15, 2006. This contract represents the next generation of DOE contract reform and focuses on project completion. The contract includes detailed descriptions of the work scope, schedule, and cost for closing Rocky Flats and identifies specific Government Furnished Services and Items (GFS/I) that DOE needs to provide to enable accelerated site closure. Examples of GFS/I include container certification, TRUPACT II availability and receiver site availability. The contract also includes a new structure for measuring and incentivizing contractor performance based upon an earned value approach and precedent-setting contractor accountability in safety, health, environmental compliance, and safeguards and security.

The contract became effective February 1, 2000, with a target schedule for completion of December 15, 2006, at a target cost of $3,963 million. The target fee associated with on-time completion within the target cost is $340 million. The contractor can earn 30% of any cost savings up to an additional $120 million above the target fee. The contractor also shares 30% of any cost overrun above $4,163 million, down to a minimum fee of $150 million. The contract provides for conditional quarterly fee payments based upon earned value and cost performance. None of the conditional incentive payments are actually earned until the project is completed.

The contract is heavily focused on full and effective safety, health, environmental compliance, and safeguards and security requirements. The contract provides for penalties (reduction of fee) for events or incidents that are "symptomatic of a breakdown in the safety management system." The contract divides events into three categories based upon severity, ranging from least severe incidents (e.g., an accident resulting in five or more lost work days or a decline in monthly safety indicator statistics) to most severe (e.g., a work place fatality). Incentive payment reductions range from up to $250,000 for the least severe category of incident to amounts substantially in excess of $10 million for the most severe.

The contract calls for Kaiser-Hill to revise its current closure project baseline to incorporate the terms and conditions of the contract. The amended baseline must be submitted to DOE by June 30, 2000, and will include a detailed earned value management system. The conditional fee payments will be based on the earned value to the Government for overall progress toward site closure. Overall progress will be measured only in the completion of actual work. Adoption of the earned value system eliminates use of specific performance measures tied to specific buildings or project areas.

Under the new contract, Kaiser-Hill will remain the integrator of all work at the site and will work toward a goal of self-performing not more than 20% of the project work scope. The remaining 80% would be subcontracted with an increase in competitive subcontracting and an extensive evaluation to ensure the highest standards in safety and environmental compliance. ■

For more information, contact Frank Sheppard, EM-33, at (301) 903-9482 or e-mail at Frank.Sheppard@em.doe.gov

Building 779 Demolition Rocky Flats

Over the New Year's weekend, workers at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site completed the demolition of Building 779. A former nuclear weapons research and development facility, Building 779 is the first plutonium facility of its size and complexity in the nation to be decontaminated and demolished. Building 779 was built in 1965 and has 68,000 square feet of interior floor space. Work to decontaminate the building, in preparation for demolition, began in 1997. More than 130 contaminated gloveboxes were removed as part of the project. Gloveboxes are sealed, stainless steel enclosures with glass windows and rubber sleeves that allowed workers to safely perform work involving radioactive materials.

Work has proceeded under the Building 779 Decommissioning Operations Plan, the first such plan ever approved for a nuclear facility by the State of Colorado. Prior to dismantling Building 779, a complete survey was undertaken to ensure all contamination was eliminated according to plans. The demolition was completed six months ahead of the original planned schedule. ■

For more information, contact Eric Huang, EM-33, at (301) 903-4307 or e-mail at Eric.Huang@em.doe.gov

Before demolition of building 779

After demolition of building 779

Phytoremediation: Using Mother Nature's Green Plants to Clean Up Environmental Pollution

The 317 and 319 Areas are located on the southern end of the Argonne National Laboratory East (ANL-E) site.

The principal environmental concern in the 317 Area French Drain is the presence of several Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in the soil and groundwater and low levels of tritium in the groundwater beneath and downgradient of the site. In the 319 Area Landfill and French Drain, immediately adjacent to the 317 Area, the principal environmental concern is the presence of radioactive materials in the waste mound, in the leachate in the mound, and in the shallow groundwater immediately downgradient of the landfill. Several interim actions have already been implemented to reduce the VOC and tritium releases from these areas as the result of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation (RFI) conducted from December 1994 through September 1996.

The final action to complete corrective action for removing contamination in the 317/319 Areas is the deployment of phytoremediation, which involves using high-transpiring plants to control relatively shallow (less than 40 ft.) groundwater plumes contaminated with tritium and VOCs. Phytoremediation is defined as the engineered use of a natural process by which woody and herbaceous plants extract pore water and entrained chemical substances from subsurface soils. The subsequent steps in the process include the plant's ability to degrade, sequester, and transpire the contaminants along with water vapor into the atmosphere.

In 1999, the Offices of Environmental Restoration and Science and Technology jointly funded the deployment of a phytoremediation system in the 317/319 Areas with the following objectives:

- Minimize water infiltration into the 317 Area French Drain soils, some of which were treated previously by soil mixing and iron addition;
- Stabilize the treated soil surface in the 317 Area French Drain area to prevent erosion, runoff, and downstream sedimentation;
- Hydraulically contain groundwater migration and continue remediation of the residual VOCs within the 317 Area French Drain and downgradient of the French Drain; and
- Hydraulically contain the tritium and VOC plumes south of the 319 Area Landfill.

The installed system consists of planting shallow-rooted hybrid willows and special deep-rooted hybrid poplars. This system will prevent the further generation of contaminated groundwater in the source area by degrading the contaminants. It will also prevent the further migration of these plumes by removing groundwater from shallow saturated zones downgradient from the source area.

ANL-E estimates life-cycle cost savings at 80% (or $2,295K) of the traditional pump-and-treat system. Additional benefits may result from the concurrent remediation of other trace contaminants, such as the VOCs.

ANL-West, in Idaho, is also using phytoremediation to cleanup radionuclides and heavy metals in soil. ■

For more information, contact Shirley Frush, EM-34, at (301) 903-8159 or e-mail at Shirley.Frush@em.doe.gov

ANL-East borehole being drilled for tree planting at the 317 Area French Drain phytoremediation project

DOE Pollution Prevention Award For Pantex Environmental Restoration Project

An environmental restoration project at Pantex Plant has successfully composted soil contaminated with high explosives (HE). Over 3,000 cubic yards of HE contaminated soil was treated on site and saved the DOE nearly $1 million. This year the M&O contractor, Mason & Hanger, received the DOE's Pollution Prevention Award for the Windrow Soil Composting Project where HE biodegradation was achieved in the composting process. This composting technique is being considered by Los Alamos National Laboratory and two Department of Defense sites. Regulatory standards for HE in soil and water usually require removal of contaminated soil for off-site and/or landfill disposal.

The DOE composting facility was built on the Pantex Plant property near Amarillo, Texas, and operated from the second half of FY 1999 to the first half of FY 2000. It successfully treated HE and low levels of other constituents. In full-scale operation, the facility utilizes steer manure from local feed lots and recycled rotted wood chips to degrade TNT, RDX, and HMX. The primary control on the breakdown of these explosive compounds in the biodegradation process was the amount of time spent in the windrows at temperatures greater than 45 degrees Centigrade. Treatment costs were controlled through the use of abundant low-cost ingredients, simple structures to contain the operation, and low-cost equipment.

The Windrow Soil Composting Project has also been nominated by the DOE for the President's Closing of the Circle Award. ■

For more information, contact Amiya Das, EM-34, at (301) 903-7603 or e-mail at Amiya.Das@em.doe.gov

Secretary Proposes New Cleanup Program at Moab, Utah

On January 14, 2000, the Secretary of Energy made an announcement in Moab, Utah, that may result in a new project for EM. The announcement was made near the Atlas Corporation uranium mill site which is located about three miles northwest of Moab on the banks of the Colorado River. The mill site is being cleaned up under the authority of Title II of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act. The site is near the Arches National Park and Canyonlands National Park. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has approved an on-site disposal remedy previously proposed by the Atlas Corporation. However, stakeholders down stream in Nevada and California expressed concern about potential contamination of drinking water supplies, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a Biological Opinion that states contaminants (primarily ammonia) could threaten several endangered species of fish. In 1998 the Atlas Corporation declared bankruptcy, and in December 1999 the site was transferred to a trust which now has responsibility for conducting the cleanup.

The Secretary announced that he would seek Congressional authority for the Department to clean up the site and relocate the tailings to a new disposal site in Utah away from the Colorado River. The cleanup would be under the same authority used for the 22 sites that were remediated by the DOE Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project. He also said that DOE would seek authority to return certain lands to the Ute Indian Tribe and that a portion of the royalties from mineral production on those lands would be applied to the Moab cleanup. In announcing the agreement the Secretary stated, "Today, we're doing the right thing - the right thing for the environment, the right thing for the Utes, the right thing for the State of Utah, and the right thing for the American people."

The site has about 10.5 million tons of uranium mill tailings. The initial work at the site is to de-water the tailings and to develop and implement a ground water corrective action plan. This work will be needed whether the tailings are disposed on site or moved off site. This work is currently being performed by a trustee selected by NRC and the State of Utah. The Department is working with Congress on legislation for the initiatives announced by the Secretary on January 14. ■

For more information, contact David Mathes, EM-34, at (301) 903-7222 or e-mail at David.Mathes@em.doe.gov

Innovative Technology Deployment Accelerating Oak Ridge Decommissioning

The Department has contracted with Decon and Recovery Services (DRS) to decommission the K-1420 decontamination facility at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The contract puts together a number of new ideas to accelerate cleanup, re-use facilities, save taxpayers' money, deploy new technologies, and create jobs.

This story all started as a part of the Department's Reindustrialization of the ETTP. At the Department's invitation, numerous firms visited the surplus ETTP to evaluate the re-use potential of surplus materials and the asset value of surplus equipment. DRS toured the plant and saw attractive re-use potential in the K-1420 decontamination facility that had been used to support the Oak Ridge Gaseous Diffusion Plant. DRS proposed to decommission equipment, decontaminate the facility, complete an RCRA closure, and recycle 1,200 tons of copper that had been slated for disposal at the Nevada Test Site. All of this was funded using the Department's existing surveillance and maintenance budget for the contaminated category 2 nuclear facility and the inherent value for surplus assets such as the copper. A fixed price contract was signed in November 1997. As the project has proceeded the Department and DRS have identified cost effective opportunities to increase the scope to benefit both parties. The project value is now just over $12 million and is scheduled to be completed in March of 2001.

The project is now well underway; 200,000 hours have been worked without a single lost work day accident. The project is over 65% complete, and cost and schedule variances are within 5% of the target. The facility has been downgraded from a category 2 nuclear facility to a radiological facility, the RCRA closure of the 1417 B yard was completed, meeting all regulatory milestones, and 17 jobs have been created in the copper recycling operations. As if all of this was not enough, the project will also save money by effectively deploying new technologies. The ROSIE telerobotic system and the dual arm work platform will be used to remove equipment pipe and duct work in the uranium recovery area. These systems will benefit worker health and safety, lower costs, and maintain project schedule. Mixed waste debris are compacted and packaged for disposal using the ARROW-PAK macroencapsulation system.

In conclusion, we project savings of over $23 million for this project and acceleration of Decontamination and Decommissioning by seven years. ■

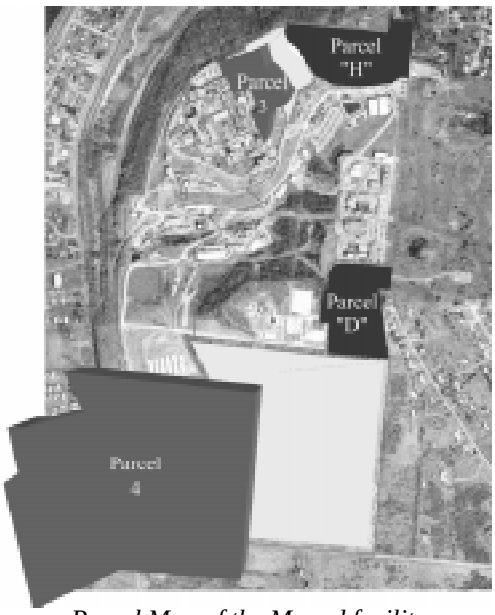
For more information, contact Judson Lilly, EM-32, at (301) 903-7212 or e-mail at Judson.Lilly@em.doe.gov

DOE Continues Successful Land Transfer Process at Mound

In 1946 construction began on a site in Miamisburg, Ohio, that became part of the nation's nuclear defense program. The facility, built primarily on a hill at the south end of the City, developed, manufactured and evaluated explosive components for the nuclear defense stockpile.

Today, the Department of Energy Miamisburg Environmental Management Project (MEMP) is environmentally restoring the site and transferring it to the community for economic development. Twenty-seven acres have been cleaned up and transferred to the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation (MMCIC) to date. Parcel D was transferred in April 1999 and houses two private companies. Parcel H, the site's main entrance with a large parking area, was transferred in August 1999. The transfer has allowed the MMCIC to begin infrastructure changes.

This Fall DOE looks forward to transferring the third parcel. Parcel 3 includes a parking area, a Guard Post (GP-1) and a former firing range. This one story, 8,000 square foot structure, constructed in 1950, was used as a training facility and administrative offices.



Parcel Map of the Mound facility

The largest parcel, Parcel 4, is scheduled for transfer to the MMCIC in December 2000. Parcel 4 consists of about 100 acres of land purchased by the Department of Energy in the mid-1980's to be used as a "buffer zone" to the road boundary. This land was not developed, although a service road does run through the property.

The DOE and its contractor BWXT of Ohio, recently celebrating 3 million safe work hours without a lost time accident, are working diligently to accomplish the goal of site closure. By understanding the needs of the local community through stakeholder involvement, the MEMP land transfer process has become a model for success. ■

For more information, contact Jane Greenwalt, MEMP, at (937) 865-3116 or e-mail at Jane.Greenwalt@ohio.doe.gov

United States Department of Energy
Office of Site Closure, EM-30
Washington, D.C. 20585

Environmental Management
Office of Site Closure